

Active Learning in Pathophysiology and in Gerontology

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Critical Thinking Activities

Critical Thinking Paper

Purpose

- Use content from previous courses
- Begin to implement aspects of critical thinking
- Gain familiarity with professional nursing literature
- Write thoughts succinctly
- Start organizing nursing knowledge through conceptualization

Pathophysiology

Purpose

- Explore own values and beliefs in relation to current research on assigned topic
- Work in a small group (Tried the first this past semester)
- Examine issues that may impact them in the nursing profession

Issues Paper

Critical Thinking Paper Components

- Patient vignette
- Three narrative type questions regarding the vignette
- One question that requires a concept map or a diagram
- Rubric for guidance to activity expectation

Examples Available

Issues Paper Components

- This year's topic choices:
 - Organ donation
 - Compare male vs. three female health issues
 - Environmental health issues
 - Around the globe (examining a global health problem outside the USA)
- Each group self-selected their participants and topic
- Each group had specific questions they were to address
- Rubric
- Peer Evaluation

Examples Available

Keeping the activities fresh

- Have used vignettes for 10 years
- Changing the questions or mappings each year
- Developed about 60 vignettes overtime
- Only one to two students get the same activity per year
- The rubric has developed over time

Keeping Issues Current

- In the past some topics have been value-based.
- Always topics are available that will not cause value conflict – many students have picked some topics that they feel conflicted about only to indicate that they have a better understanding.
- The student is required to correlate the topic to the development of their nursing practice.
- This activity has changed on yearly basis.

Life History Paper Gerontology

Purpose

- Student is offered an opportunity to practice interviewing skills to learn about an older adult's history in a personal context.
- Begin to work in a therapeutic relationship as a professional student nurse caring for an older adult in the local community.



Life History Paper Components

- Examine issues have had an impact on their older adult.
- Explore nursing literature dealing with a related quality of life issue of importance to their older adult.
- Write a nursing care plan using an appropriate wellness diagnosis that directly relates to their client.

Using Application in Paper Assignment; this evolved from original requirements.

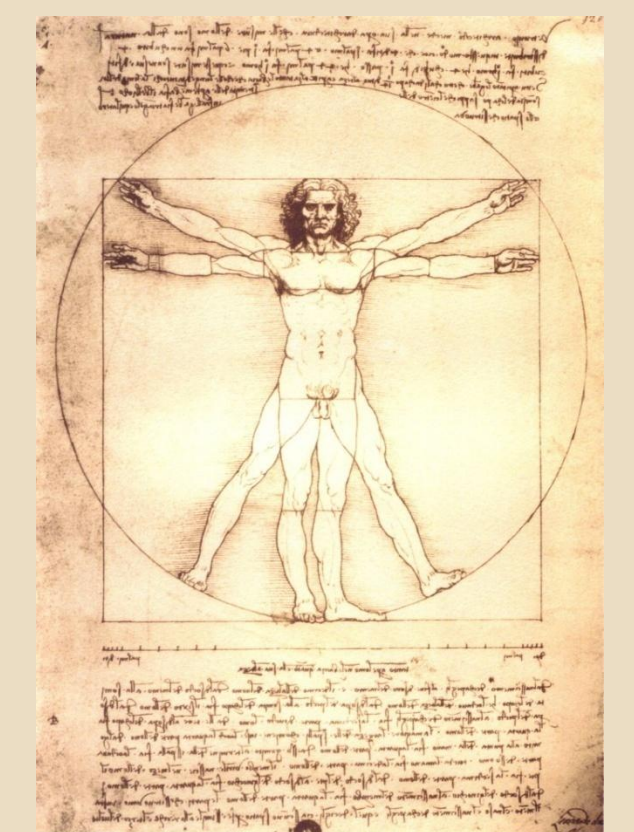
Additions:

- Student discusses care plan with their older adult client
- Examine feedback from client regarding care plan

Medical Terminology Activities Pathophysiology

Purpose

- Intended students work individually, if they choose to work in a group the expectation is that each person comes up with individual outcomes
- Begin to expand and improve understanding of terminology
- Professional writing is expected; write medical terms correctly



Medical Terminology Assignments - Application Components

- Out-of-classroom games related to body systems being studied
 - Crossword Puzzles
 - Fill-in-the-blanks
 - Unscramble tiles to reveal the terms
- Incorporate medical terms correctly in writing a short medical report
 - Create or use their own medical experience using terms they have learned

Active Learning

- Active learning helps develop the students' thinking abilities and ensure transfer of learning to practice
- Application in a professional situation facilitates learning of medical terminology
- Helps student's to start thinking like a professional